

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07749 181350Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 PRS-01 PA-01 /083 W

----- 102563

R 142231Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 255

INFO RUESUZAAMEMBASSY BRASILIA 486

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, CODH

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN VIEWS ON SELA

1. FOREIGN OFFICE UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ROBERT SOTO ATTACKED AND RIDICULED SELA DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AUGUST 13. THE BASIC THRUST OF HIS COMMENTS WAS THAT HE SAW NO USEFUL ROLE FOR THE ORGANIZATION.

2. SOTO RAN RAPIDLY THROUGH THE VARIOUS OBJECTIVES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED FOR SELA, SUCH AS COORDINATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICIES, AND NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF THE WIDE DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS WITHIN THE AREA THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY THAT ANY OF THESE OBJECTIVES COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THE COUNTRIES BACKING FORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION HOPED TO UTILIZE SELA AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S. THIS HE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS AND HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE.

3. AT THE SAME TIME SOTO SAID THAT SELA WAS ALREADY A FACT AND THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF KILLING IT OFF AT THIS STAGE. COLOMBIA WOULD GO ALONG SIMPLY NOT TO BE LEFT IN ISOLATION. HE TOLD US HOWEVER THAT BRAZIL WAS ORGANIZING A MEETING WHICH WOULD INCLUDE COLOMBIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES,
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 07749 181350Z

LARGELY FROM THE SOUTHER TIER, WHO HAD DOUBTS ABOUT SELA.

ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF
THE ORGANIZATION SOTO THOUGHT THAT BY COMBINING FORCES THEY
MIGHT BE ABLE AT LEAST TO INJECT SOME ELEMENTS OF
RATIONALITY AND BALANCE INTO ITS STATUTES AND ACTIVITIES.
VAKY

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